

B. 1.6, V.9# 47 Leicester, Octo. 14. 1862.

Dear W. Webb,

I must take advantage of my daughter's letter to you, to add a few lines. I hope you are well, and able to keep up, as it must be important to so many that you should; but I fear that the hardest & most trying time for you is now upon you, and who can help you hold up and bear the burden? Children & friends around you can do something towards this end; - the companionship, in spirit, of her whom you sorrow for will, I trust, do a good deal; - and time & the stem necessity of the case will habituate you to your new & untried condition so far, (we may hope,) that the providential sun-light may again shine upon you, and you may be able to say Amen to the appointment which has, for a season, severed a tie so strong and vital. I think very often of you, and wish I could hear something from you; but I am not impatient, and will wait the time when you feel moved to write again. - I suppose you rec'd. mine of about Aug. 5. telling you what I had done in regard to y^r request for communicating to y^r friends & correspondents here the tidings of your wife's death? - again I wrote you - about Sept. 22^d. - chiefly (at first) I think concerning a letter I had had from Ireland asking me to advertise further in the case of your relative ^{the heir of} lately deceased, - but in which I was able also to

Speak of the President's Proclamation of Sept. 22nd.

- We do not yet get the response of Europe to that Proclamation. Of course we await it with interest, & considerable curiosity. That basest of all European sheets, known to me, the London Times, has plainly enough, for months back, foreshadowed what its sentiments will be. It told us, at the beginning of the war, that if the Government would only decree Emancipation, it would have, and the whole North would have, the universal sympathy of Great Britain. Latterly it has changed its tune and denounced emancipation beforehand as a cruel & infamous measure! I must say, as I sincerely believe, that the moral standard of that nation, which accepts & sustains the Times as a prominent organ of ~~the~~ public opinion, ^{that of} cannot be such as to give it any pre-eminence over ~~others~~ this country, to qualify it to be our censor. Our presses, I am glad to observe, having gotten over their first surprise and passion at the course of England towards us nationally, now have much less to say on the subject than they did awhile ago. I notice too that the Quarterly Reviews of your Country, the Edinburgh, the London, the Westminster, the North British, resolutely refrain from any discussion of our affairs. I am sure this is wise, and, with the strong temptation to say exulting & sharp things over our calamity which surrounded them, (and to which they all yielded for a time,) I think it is generous also. Blackwood's Magazine continues to be an exception, and Shand's ^{"t"} falsifies generally ~~the~~

occurrences here, and openly applauds & aids the Slaveholders' plans, now as heretofore

The fortunes of War continue to be various and quite uncertain. This is true, and a sad truth, I admit. I cannot but think that the Rebellion might ~~should~~ have been put down & ended before this, if there had been the wisdom and vigor in our Government that we had a right to expect. But, at every point, we have had sadly to confess that the Government was but a ~~teamer~~, knew but little of the demoniac strength and demoniac purposes of Slavery, and was getting its eyes open only too slowly, and at ^{such} ~~such~~ a terrible cost of life and treasure as was, & is, appalling to think of. But the government was not alone. The people, unbelieving of what ~~the~~ all Anti-slavery ^{writer & speaker} people had told them for more than a quarter of a country, were perverse, obstinate, wilfully blind, & refused to touch the rebellion in its ~~vital~~ ^{vulnerable} place. They too have been getting their education in the way of national duty & safety: they have had much to unlearn, & much to learn. It is no more than the truth to say that they have made rapid progress within the last year, considering the nefarious arts which have been used to keep up their old Pro-slavery habits and pre-dilections. At least, such are the present appearances. We are now on the eve of several very important State elections, the result of which will indicate pretty well where those States stand on the question of Emancipation.

Hitherto the responses to the President's Proclamation of Sept. 22^d have been, in the

main, highly encouraging. Leading papers in Maryland and Nippon have approved of it warmly and decidedly. The ~~the~~ vast majority of journals, and the ~~the~~ ^{of all parties} larger part of the leading & influential men ^{of all parties} at the North, either distinctly & cordially sustain it, or are prepared to stand by the President in giving its policy a fair trial. Every day adds, apparently, to the number of its friends. On the other hand the South is manifestly alarmed. Under an extra amount of its accus-
tomed bluster and high-horse vapouring it ^{endeavours} ~~endeavours~~ to disguise & conceal its alarm; but it is of no use. Every body sees that it is has received a terrible blow, and that it knows it, too. Our great ^{Northem} ~~Northem~~ I may say our only, danger lies in the fact that the ^{Northem} friends of the Rebellion are powerful, cunning, insidious & ^{and are ready for anything, no matter how treasonable,} tolerably numerous, ^{with} the most desperate and ^{peculiar} arts, which can be devised, are used by them to mislead & pervert the Northern mind. A united North would make quick & short work with this business. But when we have to watch, expose, & defeat an enemy in our midst, as well as the Rebels at the South, no wonder our progress is slow, our fortunes various. If the Rebellion triumphs, it will be through two causes mainly; 1st. The treason, secret or open, at the ^cNorth; and 2^d. The "aid and comfort" rendered to the Slaveholding Rebellion by England. The September Advocate said that "where the South got its arms, ammunition, & other means of carrying on the war nobody knew." Never was there a greater mistake. Had you read the lists of English vessels taken in the act of running the blockade, & bearing cannon, rifles, small arms of every description, ammunition, clothing, medicines, & every other kind of supplies to the Rebels, & the still greater number not taken, but which succeeded in carrying all these to the Confederate ports, you would not have so written.

My love to all your family! - My son Edward has gone under orders to Cadiz, where the U.S. Government has an extensive Dept. of Revenue. He left Liverpool, on a small Island Name Paros. His duties, according to his passage, are quite enlarged. Farewell. Affectionately, Mark